

For the

BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
MAP DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

The work of the Map Division of the Department of State is not duplicated elsewhere in the United States Government.

The Cartography Branch is the only map-making unit of the Government which specializes in the compilation and drafting of medium and small-scale maps of foreign areas which portray the locational and distributional aspects of political, economic and social factors influencing our national security and foreign relations. Each map produced is a unique construction problem and is tailor made to portray a specific problem. During the past year 400 maps of this character have been produced and have been used for intelligence reports, for Departmental publications, for international conferences, and for briefing the Secretary and other high officers in the United States Government. Other agencies of the Government often call upon the Map Division when they require specialty maps of this type.

The Map Library Branch maintains a specialized working collection of foreign published maps which relate to political, economic and social facts in foreign countries. It also maintains a selected reference collection of detailed maps for the study of territorial questions. A staff highly trained in servicing intelligence agencies maintains this collection. No other map library of the Government has a specialized working collection of this type. On the contrary, the other map libraries of the Government call upon the Map Library Branch when requiring service in these fields. The Map Library Branch has primary responsibility for coordinating requests of other Government agencies for map procurement abroad and works in close collaboration with the Library of Congress and the Army Map Service in directing and carrying out a large number of map exchange agreements with mapping agencies of foreign governments. Thousands of maps are distributed each month not only to the Department but to other agencies of the Government and to Foreign Service Posts.

The Map Intelligence Branch is the only unit of the United States Government which carefully evaluates and reports on the quality, coverage, availability and suitability of foreign political and economic maps of use in studying questions relating to United States foreign policy and national security. This Branch also reports upon the personnel, the activities and programs of foreign mapping organizations. Such reports have been extremely useful not only to the Department but to other agencies of the Government. The Branch is also responsible for technical studies relating to the correct delimitation of international boundaries and to the status of territorial claims. The mapping agencies

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of the Government depend upon this unit to supply them with current information on the proper portrayal of international and internal boundaries.

These three Branches are closely intertwined in their operations because of mutual interdependence. The Map Intelligence Branch is dependent upon the Map Library for the major part of its source material. The Map Library is in turn dependent upon the Map Intelligence Branch for the evaluation of information in its collection. The Cartography Branch is dependent upon both the Map Intelligence Branch and the Map Library Branch for base materials and for technical advice as to propriety and completeness of compiled information.